

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. Applicant/Contact name and address: Gerald Carisch
100 Farm View lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
2. Type of action: Application to change a water right # 30028110-41H
3. Water source name: Groundwater
4. Location affected by project: SESESE, Sec. 25, T1S, R5E, Gallatin, Co.
5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:
The DNRC shall issue a water use change authorization if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402 MCA are met. The applicant proposes to drill a replacement well located within the Bozeman Solvent Site Controlled Groundwater Area (BSSCGWA). A total of 1 acre of lawn will be irrigated using up to 20 GPM up to 3.5 acre-feet. A Permit is needed because this well is in the BSSCGWA.
6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Natural Resource Information System
Gallatin Local Water Quality District
Gallatin County Planning Office
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Part II. Environmental Review

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Water quantity - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: The groundwater has not been identified to affect nearby streams.

Water quality - *Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.*

Determination: This project would not affect water quality in perennial streams. See groundwater section below.

Groundwater - *Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.*

Determination: At the requested flow rate of 20 gpm and volume of 3.5 acre-feet, there should be no significant impacts to water quantity or quality. This project is located inside the Bozeman Solvent Site controlled groundwater area.

DIVERSION WORKS - *Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.*

Determination: This project would not adversely affect channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas or dams, as it would be utilizing groundwater at a rate of 20 gpm. There are no perennial streams located on or near the site.

UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Endangered and threatened species - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."*

Determination: No species of concern have been identified in this area.

Wetlands - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

Determination: This well was not drilled in a wetland.

Ponds - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

Determination: This application does not involve a pond. There will be no impact to existing resources.

GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

Determination: Saline seep is not found in this area. This well will not degrade soil quality, or alter soil stability, or moisture content.

VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

Determination: Existing vegetative cover was altered when the motel was constructed. A lawn is being planted, and noxious weeds will likely be controlled

AIR QUALITY - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

Determination: No significant impacts.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.*

Determination: Since the site has been developed SHPO has concluded that any historic or archaeological sites that may have been located within the area have already been destroyed.

DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY - *Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.*

Determination: None identified.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS - *Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.*

Determination: The Gallatin County Planning board has no restrictions against using this well for irrigation of a lawn

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.*

Determination: This project is located on private land, with no access to recreational or wilderness activities. No impact is expected.

HUMAN HEALTH - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: No impact on human health is expected.

PRIVATE PROPERTY - Assess whether there is any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes___ No X___ If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination:

OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? No impacts identified
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? No impacts identified
- (c) Existing land uses? No impacts identified
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No impacts identified
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No impacts identified
- (f) Demands for government services? No impacts identified
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? No impacts identified
- (h) Utilities? No Impacts identified
- (i) Transportation? No Impacts identified
- (j) Safety? No impacts identified
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? No impacts identified

2. *Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:*

Secondary Impacts: No secondary impacts have been identified

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts have been identified

3. *Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*

No mitigation/stipulation measures have been identified.

- 4. *Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*** No reasonable alternatives have been identified.

PART III. Conclusion

- 1. *Preferred Alternative:*** Proceed with application process

- 2. *Comments and Responses:*** None received at this time

- 3. *Finding:***

Yes___ No X Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: An EA is adequate at this time.

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Porter Dassenko

Title: Water Resource Specialist

Date: 6/19/2007